Falling crop yield in India

5054. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a World Bank report crop yield is falling in India and there is a decline in the investment in this sector ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the details of the package Government propose to take to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) No, World Bank report has claimed that crop yield is falling in India. However, it has been mentioned in "India : 1991 Country Economic Memorandum, Volume II : Agriculture—challenges and opportunities" that gross domestic investment in agriculture remained constant in real terms between 1980 and 1987, while overall gross domestic investment nearly doubled in the same period. Further, according to the report, much of this stagnation is attributable to falling real public investment in agriculture, which declined by 18% in the same period.

(c) The problem of investment in Agriculture is not a problem of total availability of resources but one distribution between current expenditure and capital formation. Since 1980-81, a larger portion of public expenditure went into current expenditure in the form of increased level of subsidies for fertilizer, irrigation, electricity, credit and other agricultural inputs rather than investment. Government is already seized with the task of reducing subsidies and rationalising farm inputs support policies so as to release resources for investment in agriculture specially in irrigation which has high potential to enhance productivity.

Cultivation of Mushrooms

5055. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has achieved a break-through in the cultivation of mushrooms ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the names of the States where the cultivation of mushrooms is being carried on together with the area under cultivation in each State :

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the rough estimates the total production was 100 MT in 1970, 1000 MT in 1981, 7000 MT in 1990, 12,000 MT in 1992 and is expected to reach 25000 MT by 1995. The productivity has also increased from 2-3 kg per sq meter (1964-65) to 18—22 kg per sq meter (1988-89).

(c) The major mushroom producing States are UP, HP, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Karnataka, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, J & K, Kerala, Maharashtra, M.P., Orissa, West Bengal, Gujarat, Bihar and Rajasthan.

Mushrooms are grown indoor and not in the field and thus area under cultivation can not be indicated.

tShare of agriculture in gross domesic product

5056. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the share of agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product of our country ;

(b) what is the share of agriculture in exports ;

(c) what steps Government would take to make the share of exports at par with the share of agriculture in Gross Domestic Product ; and

(d) by when the gap between the two is expected to be filled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) As per quick estimates of the Central Statistical Orga-

nisation (CSO) at constant prices of 1980-81, the share of agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country during 1992-93 is estimated at 28.1%.

(b) The share of agriculture and allied products in the total exports of the country during 1992-93 was estimated as about 17.6%.

(c) and (d) The share of agriculture in the GDP depends upon the rate of growth of various sectors whereas its share in exports would depend upon the pattern of utilisation of various products. However, the special thrust on the promotion of agricultural exports, particularly products of horticulture, floriculture, livestock & marine products, processed foods etc. is being given which would increase the share of agriculture in the total exports in future.

Calculation of cost of production of agricultural products

5057. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether labour cost for the period during which the farmers remain active looking after the crops is also taken into account while calculating the cost of production of agri-produce;

(b) whether the cost of labour of the women folk and children of the farmers is also taken into account for the above; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (c) The labour cost for the entire period for which the farmer and his family including woment and children above 10 years of age who are actively engaged in farm work is taken into account in computation of cost of cultivation/production. However, the labour cost for each item of work or operation-wise is not separately worked out.

Spurious and sub-standard pesticides

5058. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of spurious and sub-standard pesticides is increasing in the country causing great damage to the crops ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that inspite of the available laws to check it, these laws are not being enforced strictly and there is no detterent punishment to the culprits as a result of which this fake industry is growing and farmers are suffering ; and

(c) the number of cases registered against dealers of spurious pesticides and the number of corrupt suppliers convicted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) By and large there is no specific report that the production of spurious and sub-standard pesticides is increasing in the country, causing great damage to the crops. Analysis of pesticides samples drawn by Insecticide Inspectors across the country reveal that about 3-5% of pesticide samples are sub-standard/misbranded.

(b) States and UTs have been entrusted with the responsibility of implementating the various provisions on quality control under the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Rules framed thereunder. The notified Insecticide Inspectors under the said Act draw samples as per prescribed norms which are analysed by State Pesticides Testing Laboratories, Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories and Central Insecticides Laboratory. In case samples are found sub standard, the concerned manufacturers/suppliers of misbranded pesticides are punished under Section 29 of the Act. For the second and a subsequent offence, the punishment is imprisonment upto three years or fine or both. Deterrent administrative action by way of cancellation or suspension of manufacturing/selling licences is also taken.